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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2419
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 000431

SIPDIS

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STATE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD WTRO NI

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA: U.S. - EU TAFT GOODS PROPOSAL LINKED
WITH REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REF: SECSTATE 12905

(SBU) In coordination with European Commission Economic, Political, and Press Officer Nicolas Bulte, Econoff delivered reftel demarche on March 4, 2008, to Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Development Director General for International Trade Sonia Somarriba. She promised to study the joint U.S. - EU proposal on nontariff barriers to textiles, apparel, footwear, and travel (TAFT) goods at the World Trade Organization. During a follow-up conversation on April 8, 2008, Somarriba explained that Nicaragua's views on the joint U.S. - EU proposal would be developed within the context of regional efforts among Central American countries to harmonize labeling requirements and other standards related to trade. She declined to provide additional details, noting that integration efforts are a "work in progress."

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